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<b>WELLINGTON</b>	
<b>WEST BUCKLAND</b>	
<b>YARCOMBE</b>	



## A moooving love story

■ TWO cows have defied the laws of attraction and have found love at a Blackdown Hills Animal Sanctuary.

Molly, the two-year-old Dexter cow, was born prematurely, which caused her stunted growth and made her even shorter than the other Dexters in her heard. Because of this she was picked on by the other cows. When Molly's owner noticed she was being bullied they became concerned and took her to the Ferne Animal Sanctuary near Chard last year.

It was here that Molly met her perfect match, Hector, a 13-year-old, white Friesian x Holstein. Hector took Molly under his wing almost instantly. Both are now fully grown with Hector being more than twice Molly's size, but that hasn't stopped them forming a strong bond of friendship and love.

Hector was saved from slaughter at less than a month old in November 2000 and was transported to Ferne in the back of a 4x4 when he was no bigger than a dog.

Hector and Molly can be seen grazing together every day at Ferne Animal Sanctuary from 10am-5pm, seven days a week.

## Locals lend a helping hand to Somerset's flooded communities

AS local people count the cost of the back-to-back storms on their doorstep, individuals, community groups and businesses have been coming together to help those suffering the devastating floods on the Somerset Levels.

Recent storms have brought down trees and caused minor landslides in areas where the ground was already saturated from weeks of continuous rainfall.

Unable to spend much time riding, due to the weather, Tessa Westlake, who runs the Racehorse Rehoming Centre charity in Combe St Nicholas, near Chard, was following the news about flooding on the Somerset Levels, decided to take positive action and take food to the people working on the ground.

She approached Chard businesses and drummed up a group of friends who volunteered to make sandwiches. She said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to the Village Bakery, S & L Country Butchers, the Co-op, and Combe village shop for being so generous in supplying food that we took out to the hard workers that are fighting the flood waters over on the Somerset Levels.

"We are very grateful to you for your participation

and you will be pleased to know they were all very appreciative of all our efforts. Also to Fur Fin & Feather and Pets Pantry for donating animal feed for the pets that are in temporary accommodation, separated from their families."

The donated pasties, sandwiches and other fare were taken to Stoke St Gregory.

Mrs Westlake added: "The guys from the Environment Agency who were working so hard, were shocked when I turned up with all the food. They were chuffed to bits but didn't like to take too much at first, then they came back for more and the rest of the food, a local resident took in to hand out to the next shift of helpers which he said would be coming on later.

"I did get stuck for three hours but you can't not do something can you? We just wanted to show solidarity to these poor people; charity begins at home after all. It was really humbling to see all the Young Farmers on their tractors coming to help."

Donate online to the Somerset Emergency Flood Relief Fund Appeal at [www.justgiving.com/Somerset-Community-Found-Flood-Appeal](http://www.justgiving.com/Somerset-Community-Found-Flood-Appeal).

## Youth centre opens its doors

THE Garages Sports and Activity Centre has finally opened its doors to the youth of Hemyock.

After a lot of hard work by volunteers, and funds from donations and successful grant applications, the building is almost complete.

Facilities include a sports hall, a social room with kitchen, an office, an entrance hall, toilets and a music room, which is not yet finished.

Facilities for young people in-

clude a television, games console, table tennis, pool, table football, football, darts and games. The Youth Council run a tuck shop, with all the proceeds benefiting the centre.

The centre is used for a number of activities and these include circuit training, cubs, scouts and Zumba and may be hired for private events and parties.

If you would like to hire the centre contact Karen Pinder on 01823

6801034

The centre is open for young people every Friday night from 6.30pm til 9pm and everyone between the ages of 12 and 19 are welcome.

The youth centre is currently looking for adult volunteers to help run youth sessions. If you feel this is something you could offer get in touch via the Facebook Garages page or by ringing Lynn Taylor 01823680104.

## NEWS briefs

### Villagers raise cash for defibrillator equipment

VILLAGERS in Stockland are raising money to provide a defibrillator for the community.

The parish council have agreed to pay half the money of providing the life-saving equipment, if the community can fundraise to meet the outstanding costs.

So far villagers have organised a number of fundraising events including raffles.

It is thought the total cost of the project, including the purchase of the equipment, installation and training volunteers in how to use it, will be almost £2,000.

The parish council has been inviting people who might be interested in becoming volunteers, to get in touch. They are also asking villagers to put forward ideas of where to site the defibrillator.

The most popular choice at the moment is the old red telephone box, as it is in the centre of the village and provides power and shelter for the device.

### Police team invite you to have your say online

THE Honiton police team is urging the local community to go online to have their say about issues that concern them where they live.

The police team works closely with partner agencies such as the fire service and residents associations, to tackle issues.

Residents can visit [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk) and follow the link to "tell us your priorities".

The local police pages also show the current priorities in the area and what action is being taken to address these concerns.



## View from the Blackdown Hills

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of news and photos from  
individuals, schools,  
organisations and  
businesses within  
the Blackdown Hills.

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# BT explore more viable broadband options to reach rural communities

## FROM page 1

cabinets and repeaters. "We don't want to see any areas missing out and the Government has just increased its funding by an extra £250million."

There is also an additional £10 million available for pilot projects for alternative methods and Connecting Devon and Somerset boss, Kerri Denton, promised to ensure she obtained some of this funding for rural areas.

A CDS spokesman said after the meeting: "Providing fibre broadband across Devon and Somerset poses a number of major technical challenges. For the Upottery, Rawridge and Smeatharpe area, an entirely new 'fibre to the premises' network would probably be required which would mean the installation of over 10Km of new fibre optic cabling. It is unlikely that it would be possible to achieve this within the current available funding."

"The programme is actively seeking more funding for our hardest to reach areas and is looking forward to an announcement on how to access the £250 million extra UK funding announced by the Government last summer."

Chairing the meeting MP, Neil Parish, summed up the evening by giving a commitment to raise the rural concerns about superfast broadband whilst taking a realistic approach.

He said: "We have to work together on this with our county councillors and BT and CDS. It was always going to be difficult in the Blackdowns and we want to make sure you do get much faster speeds. I will speak to Ministers and we must try to get some of the extra money available, harness other technologies or look at other options such as communities arranging their own solutions. I will go to the Ministers on this."

# A303 Improvements take major step forward

IMPROVEMENTS to the A303/A358/A30 corridor took another major step forward at a recent meeting with the Department for Transport.

At a positive meeting with Somerset, Devon, Wiltshire and Dorset County Councils, Highways Agency, Local Enterprise Partnership, business groups and

other interest parties, the Department for Transport shared details of their study of the route and confirmed that they will be presenting a strong business case and recommendations to Ministers by the end of this year.

The meeting also sought to establish whether there are individual sections of the route which could be

constructed early-on in the Government's new roads programme, which will start in 2015.

Councillor David Hall, deputy leader of Somerset County Council, said: "Improving the A303 corridor will bring considerable economic benefits to the South West. We and our partners have long campaigned for these improvements and following the work we presented to Ministers last year I am really pleased that the Department for Transport is now taking forward our case."

The Government announced in July last year that it would tackle some of the most notorious and long-standing road hot spots in the country including the A303/A358/A30 corridor.

## Restaurant wins top award

A YARCOMBE restaurant which requests diners order their menu choices in advance to help it reduce waste, has won a major national restaurant award.

Raymond Blanc, President of the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA), presented The Belfry at Yarcombe, the award for Best Food Waste Strategy, at the Roast Restaurant in London's Borough Market.

Mark Linehan, Managing Director of the SRA, said: "Diners tell us that food waste is the sustainability issue that matters most to them when eating out."

"The Belfry has taken this on board and committed to a brave but laudable policy of requiring customers to order in advance, making it a worthy winner of the award."



**SARAH-Jane Martin of the Belfry at Yarcombe receiving award from Tracey Rogers MD of sponsors Unilever Food Solutions and Raymond Blanc President of the SRA**

This small, restaurant with rooms makes every effort to ensure it wastes as little as possible as well as recycling its unavoidable food waste.

It also plans to introduce a wormery later this year to help dispose of vegetable peelings.

But what made it stand out from its competitors in this category, is its policy of asking customers to order their food from the monthly menu 24 hours in advance.

This means staff shop to order on a daily basis, waste as little as possible

and cook daily to order.

Sarah-Jane Martin of the The Belfry, said: "We are absolutely over the moon to have won such an award and feel really privileged to have had such a fabulous day with members of The SRA at Roast Restaurant."



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## Working our Woodlands

with John Greenshields



THOSE in the know are saying it will take two years for the farm land on the Somerset levels to recover, and we have not completely got away with it.

Apart from the flooding, this adverse wet and windy weather has done an incredible amount of harm to our trees. The wet ground and wind have made a high percentage of our trees unstable. I am being called out on a fairly regular basis to inspect the safety of "at risk" trees. The soaked ground has left the roots of large trees without anything to grab hold of, and letting them rock in the soil.

There is not a lot we can do, but especially near roads and public paths we need to keep an eye on vulnerable trees, and act before there is an accident.

The woodland association's AGM is on the March 12th at Buckland St Mary village hall at 6.30pm. Tea and cake will be provided.

Graham Tottle, chairman of "Culmwoods" (our wood for work co-op) will be one of the speakers, the other will be Nick Davey from Perry Nurseries who will be giving us an insight into the Royal Forestry Society.

Also David Colman, East Devon Tree officer will explain about Tree Preser-

vation Orders, so come along and if not a member, then it's a good time to join.

Preparations for the fourth Blackdown Woodland Fair are in full swing, with exhibitor invitations going out as I speak. If you have any ideas for attractions or stalls please get in touch as it is your show so all comments welcome.

As you know we try to make it a family event, with under 16s free, and discount to association members, there should be loads of things to do.

Fingers crossed for the weather.

■ THE word "native species" when talking about trees is often misused. The word native means those trees that colonized Britain naturally after the last ice age and before the formation of the English channel some 8,000-years-ago.

As the climate warmed up these trees gradually moved back from Europe, these include, Whitebeam, Aspen, Juniper, and Hornbeam, not Chestnut, Sycamore, or Planes, and with The Scots pine being probably the only Pine.

With about 30 of these trees making up our "native species" they made up the complex woodland cover of Britain and are of the utmost importance of our remaining semi-natural woodlands.

# Local grant scheme to bid for Defra funding

A GRANT scheme in the Blackdown Hills is hosting a series of free consultation events.

Making it Local is offering free "Have Your Say" consultation events across the Blackdown Hills and East Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as well as surrounding market towns.

The Local Action Group has been awarded funding to cover the 2014 transition period, to provide a link between the previous and potential future rural development programmes.

In the last five years, Making it Local has supported 76 projects with a total of £1.4million of grant funding.

In preparation for a bid to Defra for the next tranche of European funding (2015-2020), the Making it Local team is inviting people from a wide range of organisations to attend consultation events across the area, and establish their priorities and needs.

Councillor Paul Divani, Chairman of the

Making it Local programme said: "Over the whole of the UK, Defra have indicated there is likely to be a budget of £140million for which Local Action Groups will have to bid.

"We want to identify

and invest in future projects which support the local rural economy so it's an exciting time for individuals and organisations to 'Have Their Say'."

If the Making it Local bid is successful, the next

funding programme will start in January 2015.

If you are interested in influencing the next Making it Local programme and you are seeking ways to raise funds for a specific project, you can find more

details on the website: [www.makingitlocal.org](http://www.makingitlocal.org)

Or contact the MiL team, email: [makingitlocal@devon.gov.uk](mailto:makingitlocal@devon.gov.uk), or phone 01823 680626. Please note, booking is essential as places are limited.

## Fishy goings on at school



■ A PARTNERSHIP with Axe Vale Rivers Association, Westcountry Rivers Trust and East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has seen a tank with one hundred salmon eggs installed at St Andrew's Primary School in Chardstock.

The eggs are lying on gravel and will be cooled and aerated in the main classroom of the school for about a month.

Children can watch the eggs hatch, and will subsequently help release them into their local river.

They will also learn about how salmon migrate from rivers out into the Atlantic, feed at sea all the way from Norwegian waters to Greenland, then return as mature fish to breed at the headwaters of local rivers such as the Kit and Axe.

### Blackdown Hills Transition Group

## Green Deal - after the assessment

THIS is a follow-up to our earlier article on the "Green Deal" the government initiative aimed at helping homes and businesses take meas-

ures to reduce energy consumption, save money and cut carbon emissions.

Our property, an attached stone house built in the 1750's, scored overall a "D" energy efficiency rating. This is the average figure for more modern conventional dwellings built of brick and having cavity walling. This survey showed that we had the potential to achieve a "B" rating if a number of additional measures were to be carried out.

These included: 1) Increasing loft insulation to 270 mm (approx 10.5 inches); 2) cavity wall insulation; and 3) internal or external wall insulation.

However when applied to our house, (1) is difficult to carry out without major building work (removing the roof) due to construction and shape, (2) could only be theoretically applied to one

wall of our property, (the other walls are stone and vary from two feet to six feet in thickness) and (3) is highly disruptive and expensive to construct. Internal battening will reduce the internal dimensions of a room and external cladding of a stone building may be storing damp problems up for a later date.

Interestingly although we scored a high mark for double glazed windows, these were not checked for age or effectiveness (some panes were "blown").

So what did we do? • Six windows identified by us for replacement, some panes had moisture in their cavity and others only had a small insulation gap. These were replaced by a reputable local manufacturer. Interestingly the old glazing had manufacturing date stamps showing it to be 22-years-old.

• We had the oil boiler

serviced and some new parts installed. A new installation was recommended by the survey but the potential cost of £4,000 plus and change of pipework and controls was felt to be too expensive to currently justify.

Window replacement has certainly helped and the effects of recent strong winds and rain have certainly had less of a cooling effect since compared to our first years here.

Plans are currently underway to improve the roof insulation of our house. This will be undertaken with proposed building works involving renovation of a currently derelict section of the house, removal of the whole existing roof and rebuilding to current insulation standards.

Achieving a level "D" rating for an old property is a good result. However it was heavily influenced by the use

of energy saving lights throughout the house, white goods appliances with "A" energy rating and upgraded controls on

our oil-fired heating and hot water system. Also our 3kW solar PV array was a factor too.

The Government is due to review the "Green Deal" in order we hope to encourage more of us to make our homes as energy efficient as possible.

If there are any points that readers would like to discuss with me, my E-mail address is [neil.j.arnold@gmail.com](mailto:neil.j.arnold@gmail.com)

Neil Arnold  
Vice Chair - Blackdown Hills Transition Group

■ Interested in transition issues Then why not come to our AGM meeting at Stentwood Farm in Dunkeswell EX14 4RW on Thursday 10th April 2014 at 7.30pm.

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## Blackdowns clubs and societies

### SMEATHARPE WI

INSTEAD of a formal meeting members enjoyed a coffee morning at the lovely home of Anne Slater.

Forthcoming outings were discussed and arrangements made for The Hedging Event on Sunday, March 9th at Sheldon and members were reminded of the Valentine's Day dance at Churchinford in aid of our designated charity.

Members had the pleasure of meeting again at the weekend for Sunday lunch at Pickeridge Golf Course.

The next meeting will be as usual at Smeatharpe Village Hall on March 6th.

### SAMPFORD ARUNDEL WI

PASSION, social division, torture, execution, scholarship, ignorance – all these and other human traits were involved in the formation of the King James Bible, first published in 1611.

James Bradnock told the enthralling story to Sampford Arundel WI. The bible itself was a truly masterly achievement, scrupulously researched, checked and discussed. It was written after a long period when the idea of a bible in English – “that a plough-boy could read” – had been fought for, often at great personal suffering and persecution, and finally won.

It is about the most widely read tract known to man-kind.

Back to the slightly calmer waters of WI activities; skittles, a group meeting, craft-n'-laugh, birthday meeting in May, and an open meeting in July.

Flower Show visits to Malvern and Chelsea, village lunch and a birthday meeting of the garden club should keep every-one busy.

Some members had been called out to help at rest centres for the flood victims and personnel.

Cute knitted little tops and hats for babies were shown – they're sent abroad and to England by 'knit for peace'.

Stamps are wanted for the RNIB.

The barn dance for the Children's Hospice South West, always very popular, is coming up in March 7th. Next month, market stall.

### YARTY GARDENING CLUB

THIS year's programme for the Yarty Gardening Club includes “No dig vegetable growing” by Charles Dowding; “Muck to Marigolds” by TV and radio presenter Rebecca Pow; and a visit to The Wild Side and Buckland Monachorum gardens.

Don't miss the next meeting on March 20th, 7.30pm in Otterford Village Hall in Bishopswood, when Alan Leaman will be talking on and illustrating gardening in containers. He will be demonstrating patio pots, but he will also be

showing how to successfully grow vegetables in containers. Alan was trained at St Bridget Nurseries in Exeter, then worked for Otter Nurseries, and in recent years was a partner at Bernaville Nurseries, Exeter. Now retired he is putting his expertise to good use by showing the rest of us how it's done!

The club, which is based in Bishopswood and Buckland St Mary, has meetings once a month, alternating between the two village halls.

Meetings start at 7.30pm and visitors are most welcome. You just pay a visitor's fee of £2.50 and, if you like what you find, then membership is just £10 a year.

For more information contact the chairman, John Gusterson on 01460 234737, or secretary Edwina Wakley on 01460 234477.

### CLAYHIDON FRIENDS

MEMBERS were treated to a year's journey of life and the changing seasons at Regency House, Hemyock through Jenny Parsons' delightful videos which she had expertly shot and edited herself.

She introduced us to her family members through her commentary, and also to her horses, dogs and animals.

Members were able to see day to day happenings such as the birth of a Dexter calf, the felling of a tree in the garden and exercising the horses in the snow. They watched beautiful shots of garden birds, and insects on the flowers, and were amazed at the horns on the Jacob rams.

On rides out from Regency House on horseback or trips in the land rover, Jenny's videos showed how splendid the Culm Valley scenery is throughout the year.

Jenny offers bed and breakfast at Regency House, and the garden is open twice a year for the National Garden's Scheme for charity.

Next month, Jude Zebedee will tell us of his round-the-world trip on a bicycle.

### BISHOPSWOOD LADIES

CHAIRPERSON Tricia Taylor congratulated members on turning out on yet another wet and stormy night.

Bishopswood Ladies had been asked to cater for the Barn Dance on May 5th and members were happy to oblige.

The Bells had held two coffee mornings and as a result were able to send a donation of £100 to the Children's Hospice.

The skittlers held a successful dinner at the Heathfield in Honiton, where points awards for the year were handed out to Pru Rose, the winner, and Darryl Troy-Brown, runner up.

During the month the skittlers had beaten Hemyock by seven pins. The ramblers were lucky to have a dry day for their enjoyable walk on the Quantocks, led by Rosie Viant, and a walking holiday to the Brecon Beacons has now been arranged.

Community Fund Raiser Gemma Wilkes then told members something of the work of St Margaret's Hospice.

The overall aim of the hospice is



to make each day count for those at the end of their lives and their families, by giving free palliative care where and when the patients choose.

St Margaret's started home care in 1982, and opened the Taunton Hospice in 1987 and the Yeovil Hospice in 2003.

St Margaret's offers a range of services for in and out patients including physiotherapy, lymphoedema treatment, complementary therapies and bereavement counselling.

The community services offer care and support and can be accessed seven days a week, including evenings.

Quantock House, Holford, offers residential breaks with support for carers.

St Margaret's costs £1,000,000 a year to run. The majority of the money comes from community support, through donations, legacies and all manner of fund raising. The various shops contribute about £2,000,000. St Margaret's is supported by an army of volunteers, who, it is estimated, save the organisation £1,000,000 per year.

The mood of the meeting then became less serious as members relaxed over refreshments provided by Cindy Beaumont, Jenny Goddard and Anne Robinson.

The annual dinner replaces the March meeting.

### BLACKDOWN HILLS GARDENING CLUB

SECRETARY Jane Hunt welcomed a good turnout for Jeremy Wilson of Strete Gate Nursery, Slapton Sands who grows numerous varieties of Camellias, native to Asia, which are popular winter and spring flowering shrubs, providing a vivid splash of colour when little else blooms.

Shades range through the palette of reds and pinks to ivory and white with glossy dark green foliage.

Camellia Sinensis is the species whose leaves and leaf buds are used to produce our national drink tea, of which 165 million cups a day are drunk. Who on earth counted I wonder?

Jeremy brought a colourful range of plants for sale while members enjoyed refreshments then raffle organised by Pat Jarvis and Pam Tutchter whilst Colvin Parry, treasurer took in subscriptions.

A brief AGM led by Jane with Tim Allen standing in for chairman Graham Salmon in his absence.

The club meets at Churchinford Hall on Wednesday, March 19th 7.30pm for a practical demonstration on planting alpenes in troughs.

Wednesday, April 16th will be peonies and irises with a 50/50 member's plant sale.

Four local outings are booked over summer months. Do join us, all are welcome for a nominal fee. Teresa Summerhayes.

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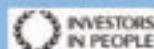
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## NEWS *briefs*

### Church celebrates its 790th birthday

A BLACKDOWNS church celebrated its 790th birthday last month.

Parishioners at St Andrew's Church in Clayhidon gathered on Saturday, February 23rd for a special family service to mark the occasion and also held a Holy Communion of thanks and praise the following week.



### Top season for FC

THE Tone Ability Football Club recently won an award for Somerset FA's Disability Club of the Season for 2013/14.

The club are looking to increase its squad for the next season and are looking for any disabled children between the ages of five and 15 to go along and try football.

They meet Tuesday evenings between 5pm-6pm at YMCA, Taunton.

Contact Ken Pearson on 01823 601365 for more information.

## Airplanes needs for record attempt

A DUNKESWELL-based aviator hopes to set two world records and raise money for charity at the same time.

But to do so, flying instructor Jim Greenshields needs to borrow planes - many planes.

He will try to set two Guinness World Records; to fly the most fixed-wing aircraft solo in one day; and to fly the most tailwheel aircraft solo in one day. Jim, who will raise money for Make-A-Wish-Foundation UK, said: "The hope is to fly more than 30 aircraft, with each plane flown up to 2,000ft and back, which will mean flying from dawn until dusk.

"At the moment there is no official record for the most [fixed-wing] aircraft flown solo in one day, but there is a record for the most tailwheel (wheel at the back, not the front) aircraft flown in a day - seven.

"I'm aiming at 40 but anything more

than 30 would be good, but we are totally at the mercy of local owners allowing me to borrow their planes."

The record attempts at Dunkeswell are pencilled in for Saturday, April 26th, with Saturday, May 3rd being the reserve date in case of bad weather the week before.

Jim has flown more than 80 types of aircraft from vintage biplanes to modern touring and aerobatic aircraft, amassing around 9,000 flying hours in the process.

Make-A-Wish-Foundation UK arranges memorable events/outings for children and young people with life-threatening conditions.

Anyone interested in lending Jim a plane, or sponsoring his attempts, can get in touch by phoning 01404 891 880, e-mailing jimgreenshields@googlemail.com or visiting www.just-giving.com/jim-greenshields



■ DUNKESWELL pilot Jim Greenshields

### Wyn and Geena are off to Crufts

A DUNKESWELL dog trainer is off to Crufts later this month.

Wyn Leney, along with Geena Olney, from near Honiton, managed to get through the stringent trials process to gain a place on the Kennel Club Good Citizen Gold display team.

The demonstrations show the strength of

bond between handler and dog using good communication, command and obedience with an added element of fun.

The displays will be held on Saturday, March 8th and Sunday, March 9th at Birmingham NEC, one being in the main ring before best in show is televised on Sunday.

Wyn, pictured with her Chinese crested cross breed dog Hunnie, runs local dog club Bordercombe Dog Training and has been to Crufts before doing Heelwork to music displays with a team of 10 dogs and handlers.

Geena regularly works on local shoots with her working cocker spaniel, Aimee.



#### ADVERTISERS ANNOUNCEMENT

### New Blackdown Hills Business Association member follows on from family founder members' dedication

THE Blackdown Hills Business Association is pleased to welcome on board Claire Stepney, from Signature Events; a Business Development Consultancy and Weddings & Events Concierge Service. Claire grew up in the village of Hemyock along with her younger brother Martin and parents David and Christine Stepney. The family moved from Berkshire to Hemyock in 1986 and together ran the village store, Spa Hemyock for 22 years. They quickly settled into country life and both Claire and Martin worked in the store as the business grew. Both David and Christine were very passionate about being involved with the local community, supporting projects, activities and local businesses. David Stepney was in fact one of the founder members of the Blackdown Business Association. Claire would have only been 10 years old at the time, but remembers the founder members Claude &

Wendy Caple, Paul & Jacquie Redwood, Heather Stallard, John Carr, Nick Jones, Julia & John Ward, David Steel and many more, meeting in their family home working out ways to unite and support local businesses and establish the Blackdown Hills Business Association. David and Christine worked hard supporting the local businesses and were proud to be active members of the community. David sadly passed away in 1998, but Christine now in her retirement continues her support and is delighted

her daughter Claire has launched here business here in the Blackdown Hills. Claire has travelled all over the south of England building her career working in some of the finest Country House Hotels, Restaurants and Spas. Claire's career highlights include working alongside the celebrity chef's Raymond Blanc and Albert Roux, working in all areas of hospitality management in the luxury Relais & Chateaux properties Le Manoir Aux Quat Saisons Oxfordshire, Summer Lodge Dorset, The

Vineyard at Stockcross Berkshire, Chewton Glen, Hampshire and locally the multi award winning Combe House, Gittisham. Claire has since settled down and returned to her routes and manages her own business Signature Events; offering professional business development support to privately owned hospitality businesses and also offers a personal Wedding and Events Concierge Service for engaged couples and corporate clients.

Claire says 'I am delighted to be so warmly welcomed as a new member of the Blackdown Hills Business Association and I look forward to networking, supporting and connecting with the local community to continue the work my father and others members have continued to do so well over the past 30 years'.

If you would like to see more of Claire services you can visit her website at [www.event-consultancy.co.uk](http://www.event-consultancy.co.uk)



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# The show must go on for Cloverleaf



■ MUDDLES (Dave Goodall) and village chorus



■ MUDDLES (Dave Goodall), Nurse Dottie Dettol (Bob Dunn), Queen Marigold (Liz Lane) and King Cactus (Neil Lane)

IF EVER there was a case of "the show must go on" it was the Cloverleaf Productions pantomime of Sleeping Beauty.

The company had a potentially disastrous day before their final dress rehearsal when one of the principle comedy duo, Helen Rose, playing the page Fetch, fell and broke her wrist. To make matters worse, another cast member, Sandra Pitwood, suffered a stroke and an ambulance was called to the small village hall in Combe St Nicholas.

Combined with a few other back stage incidents and changes in the production team, it was almost a miracle the cast were able to continue. But continue they did with their usual spectacular result.

Friends of Ms Pitwood said she was resting and in good spirits.

The costumes were magnificent and the overall atmosphere of the show was colorful and full of fun, with the cast obviously enjoying themselves. Director Ros Rodrigo returned to a

traditional panto this year with fairies tripping around the stage full of light and sweetness, beautifully played by Sue Lloyd as Fairy Lilac and the colour fairies played by the children; Ruby Nex as Delilah-Salway Roberts, Sienna Weiss and Ferne Lewis.

Bob Dunn made a happy return to a dress for the dame part as Nurse Dottie Dettol with some interesting interaction with a member of the band and a dose of laughs the audience could have easily taken more of, the dame in a tu-tu just had to be seen and the addition of the "Staying Alive" CPR moment when Beauty fell asleep was priceless.

Dave Goodall as the daft cheekie chappie Muddles bounced around and kept everything up beat and together with Fetch and Carrie Helen Rose and Beckie Orchard, sang a word perfect rendition of the Court of King Caractacus.

Helen coped very well with her arm strapped up in a colourful sling, adapting the choreogra-

phy and jokes to include the injury well and with her sidekick Beckie, did a great postal pun sketch with the birthday invitations.

The King and Queen parts were split between off stage couples Martin

and Nanette Wale and Neil and Liz Lane as the auditions had been too close, the pairs falling into chorus line on the other nights.

There were some wonderful musical interludes within the story with the

chorus being strong, upbeat and well rehearsed. Abi Cousins and Kelly Boyland as the princess and prince were a lovely duet, and Maggie Griffiths gave chills with her dream sequence song as the fantasy spirit.



■ PRINCESS Rose (Abi Cousins) and Prince Alexis (Kelly Boyland)



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## CADS celebrate 25th pantomime

IT'S show time in Chardstock once again, this year performing Bradford & Webster's version of the classic fairy-tale Sleeping Beauty.

Its full steam ahead at rehearsals right now, with scenery receiving the finishing touches, smoke coming from the wardrobe team's sewing machines, lighting and sound effects in preparation... very soon all that will be needed is the audience, so book your seats now!

Once again CADS are entering the Cinderella Trophy Competition organised by the Somerset Fellowship of Drama. In recent years successfully walking away with numerous nominations.

This year the panto

will be directed by Chris Williamson & Silvey Webber, whom people may remember for their award winning performance as Buttons & Cinderella in 2012.

The cast of 30 plus, all from Chardstock and the surrounding area, will definitely entertain you, with plenty of opportunities to boo, cheer and even join in!

The four performances at Chardstock Community Hall take place on Thursday, March 6th, Friday, March 7th and Saturday, March 8th. Evening performances curtain up at 7.30pm, Saturday matinee curtain up at 3pm.

Tickets are available from Chardstock Stores & Post Office – Adult £6 Child £4. En-



■ SOME of the CADS cast

quiries contact 01460 221067 or email [chardstockads@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chardstockads@hotmail.co.uk)

There will be a display of the past 25 Pantomimes on dis-

play in the foyer.

CADS are also proud to announce that their Variety Show held in December raised a £392.87 for the AT Society

(Ataxia-Telangiectasia Society). CADS would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who supported the evening and made this donation possible.

## Sister George 'gets it' at The Tacchi!

TAUNTON Thespians present Frank Marcus' timeless classic play about the fragility of celebrity The Killing of Sister George.

Sister George is a fictional character in a popular radio serial about English village life.

June Buckridge has played the part for some 2,000 performances. To boost ratings, the BBC producer, Mrs Mercy, decides that the character is to be killed off. This impending catastrophe sets 'the cat amongst the pigeons' in no uncertain fashion and threatens the lifestyle of June and that of her partner.

In the flat downstairs, meanwhile, Madame Xenia reads the Tarot and sees

what lies ahead and fireworks follow!

Beryl Reid triumphed in both the stage and screen versions of this comedy.

Comedy and heartbreak, laughs and tension are abound in The Killing of Sister George, which is playing at The Tacchi-Morris Theatre, Monkton Heathfield, Taunton from Tuesday, March 11th to Saturday, March 15th, 7.30pm evenings, Saturday matinee 2.30pm.

Tickets are available from the box office at the Tacchi-Morris 01823 414141 or Taunton TIC 01823 336344.

Online booking available at [www.tacchi-morris.com](http://www.tacchi-morris.com).

## Musical comedy comes to Payhembury

VOYAGE of the Viqueens, is a new, original musical comedy to be performed at Payhembury Village Hall on March 27th, 28th and 29th.

With a script and songs by local writer Torquil McNeillage, and an experienced cast culled from Payhembury and the surrounding villages, this promises to be an East Devon event to remember.

Tickets are on sale in Payhembury and Talaton shops and Stagestruck, Ottery St Mary.



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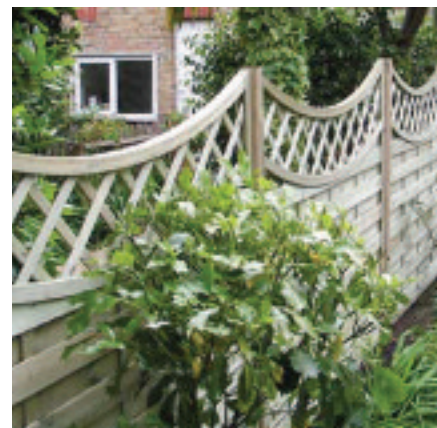


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06 06 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 2.0 5 DOOR (NEW SHAPE) , PALE MET GOLD, 48 K .....	£ 5,750
05 55 MAZDA B2500 BARRACUDA DOUBLE CAB, MET BLUE, 137 K .....	£ 4,995
05 05 MITSUBISHI L200 2.8TD DOUBLE CAB, BLACK, 134 K.....	£ 4,995
05 54 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN SPORT WARRIOR TD, BLACK, 75 K .....	£ 6,450
04 04 NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.0 SE, ZINC SILVER, 74 K.....	£ 4,450
03 03 NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.2DI SE+ 6 SPEED, MET RED, 109 K .....	£ 4,995
02 52 HONDA CRV 2.0 SE SPORT AUTO, SATNAV, MET BLUE, 124 K.....	£ 3,750
01 51 DISCOVERY TD5 GS AUTOMATIC 7 SEATS, MET RED, 123 K .....	£ 5,250
86 D LAND ROVER 110 V8 12 SEATER, GREEN, 140 K .....	£ 4,495

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**Hemyock- £625,000**

**Equestrian Property**

A 3 Bed detached house, stables, barn, 4 paddocks with field shelters and water to each, gardens (approx. 5 acres in total) Reception room, Kitchen/Diner, snug, conservatory, master bedroom with en suite, 2 further Bedrooms, family bathroom. Driveway to property. Stunning views.



**Tatworth - £399,950**

**A substantial Edwardian house**

Five bedrooms (one with an en-suite), kitchen, dining room, lounge, conservatory, and double garage. The gardens are a particular feature of the property with patio areas, a lawned area with a pergola and to one side a garden shed and greenhouse. Steps down to former orchard area with a stream. There is also a paddock of approx 0.77 of an acre, with separate entrance.



**Chardstock- £395,000**

A home with business premises or a car collector's dream! Well appointed three bed room bungalow with substantial barn, previously used as the village garage for cars and agricultural vehicles, we understand that full commercial use could be re-instated. Additional single and double garage.



**Tatworth - £999,950**

Beautifully restored period former vicarage with 5 bedrooms and 2 ensuite, with separate 3 bedroom coachouse, and additional annexe. Set in landscaped gardens and paddock totalling 3.65 acres, various outbuildings with equestrian potential, ample parking. Located on the edge of a sought-after village close to World Heritage Jurassic coast.



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## Blackdown Hills

4.5 Acres

Detached split level country residence enjoying fine views. Dining & sitting rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility & wet room, 4 bedrooms, 1 en-suite & bathroom, 5 garages. Extensive lawns, woodlands and ponds EPC Band D. Web Find: 54142  
Guide £750,000 Wellington 01823 662822



## Blackmoor

3.3 Acres

Charming farmhouse located on the lower slopes of the Blackdown Hills comprising of hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, utility, 4 beds, bathroom and shower room. Excellent range of outbuildings, gardens and paddocks. EPC Band F. Web Find: 57483  
Guide £575,000 Wellington 01823 662822



## Rawridge

30 Acres

A golf centre set the heart of the Otter Valley in 30 acres. One 3 bedroom and two 2 bedroom residential barn conversions. Shop, cafe and outbuildings. Scope for further business potential. EPC Band F, F & F. Web Find: 64216

Guide £250,000



## Kilmington

Detached longhouse of great antiquity and character. Spacious and adaptable accommodation of 6 beds, 3 reception rooms, 2 bath/shower rooms. Office, storage room, garage and attached 2 storey barn. Level gardens. Web Find: 55233  
Guide £550,000 Honiton 01404 45885



## Nr Wellington

1.8 Acres

An individually designed detached bungalow set in wonderful parkland style grounds. Hall, cloakroom, lounge/diner, kitchen/breakfast room, 3 beds, bathroom and double garage. EPC Band G. Web Find: 42554  
Guide £490,950 Wellington 01823 662822



## Sheldon

1.5 Acres

A beautifully presented detached 4 bedroom house that has been extensively refurbished throughout with adjoining paddock. EPC Band D. Web Find: 63201  
Guide £495,000 Honiton 01404 45885



## Awliscombe

A beautifully presented attached 3 bedroom period home with pleasant views set in established gardens and woodland. Kitchen/breakfast room, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms. Gardens, parking and workshop. EPC Band F. Web Find: 64311  
Guide £465,000 Honiton 01404 45885



## Buckland St. Mary

A 3 bed detached cottage with 2 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom and bathroom. Separate detached barn conversion of kitchen/diner, shower room and open plan bed/sitting room. Both with fine southerly views. EPC Band D. Web Find: 64440  
Guide £380,950 Wellington 01823 662822

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Residential Lettings



NEW

### Willand

A good sized three bedroom, unfurnished, semi detached house in quiet residential location. Kitchen, Cloakroom, Dining/living room, Bathroom & ensuite, Garden, Parking. (FCH). Available early March. EPC Band C. Tenant Fees Apply. Web Find: 40337

£725 pcm

Tiverton 01884 232872



NEW

### Kentisbeare

A detached bungalow situated in a rural location available on a 6 month renewable tenancy. Garden, parking, double garage. Paddock and storage barn available by sep neg. O.F.C.H. EPC Band: C. Tenant Fees Apply Web Find: 65254

£850pcm

Honiton 01404 42553



NEW

### Angersleigh

A superbly appointed and presented 4 bedroom U/F detached barn conversion at the foot hills of the Blackdowns. LPG central heating. Garden, parking, garage and carport. EPC Band D. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 32526

£1,500pcm

Taunton 01823 447355



### Yarcombe

3 bedroom unfurnished tenanted stone built character cottage. Sitting room, kitchen/diner, cloakroom, bathroom. Patis garden, parking for 1. OFCH. Pets/children considered. Available immediately. EPC band TBC. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 34360

£650 pcm

Honiton 01404 42553



NEW

### Willand

A spacious, four bedroom, unfurnished detached property in this popular village. Sitting room, Dining room, Kitchen/breakfast room, Family bathroom, Gardens, Driveway. Part of single garage. Pets/children considered. Available early March. EPC Band D. Web Find: 65133

£885 pcm

Tiverton 01884 232872



### Membury

Detached 3 bedroom unfurnished cottage in superb rural elevated position. Hallway, sitting room, kitchen/dining room, cloakroom, bathroom. Parking. Gardens. ENSH. Pets/children considered. Long term. EPC band E. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 45241

£795 pcm

Honiton 01404 42553



### Culm Davy

A five bedroom listed 14th century detached period farmhouse. 3 Reception rooms. Stone barns. Large garden. Paddock and stabling (by separate negotiation). OFCH. EPC Band F. Tenant Fees Apply. Web Find: 47331

£1,750 pcm

Taunton 01823 447355

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### Culmstock

An unfurnished studio barn conversion with views to village and countryside. Open plan living area. Shower room. Communal laundry room. Suit professional single/couples. Available February. EPC TBC. Tenant Fees Apply. Web Find: 33610

£395 pcm

Tiverton 01884 232872



LET AGREED

### Upton

Character 4 bedroom detached house. Sitting room, study, dining room, kitchen, 3 bathrooms, Conservatory, gardens, stone barn, garden shed. OFCH. Incl council tax/water. EPC band D. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 34143

£1,200 pcm

Honiton 01404 42553



LET

### Trull

4 Bedroom U/F recently refurbished substantial detached farmhouse. New G.F.C.H and DG. Garden, outbuildings and parking. Paddock by sep neg. EPC Band F. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 32423

£1,200pcm

Taunton 01823 447355